

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP)

REF: A. SOFIA 471 B. STATE 102738

1. P&C OFFICER CALLED WED 14 JULY ON NIKOLA NIKOLOV, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPT, TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM FOR FY-77. P&C OFFICER LEFT PAPER SAYING EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME NOMINATIONS FOR TRAVEL AFTER OCT 1 IN FOLLOWING "FIELDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST": SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION (REF A PARA 3A), MANPOWER TRAINING OR ERGONOMICS (REF A PARA 3D), PRESERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT (REF A PARA 3E), PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE (REF A PARA 3F) AND AMERICAN STUDIES (REF A PARA 3G). NIKOLOV WELCOMED EMBASSY OFFER AND SAID HE WOULD SEEK NOMINATIONS FROM APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS.

2. WE DID NOT RPT NOT OFFER GRANTS IN FOLLOWING FIELDS WHICH WE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED TO DEPT:

A. MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES (REF A PARA 3B). THIS IS COVERED IN PART BY PRESENT PARTICIPATION BY YORDAN MLADENOV IN MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND WOULD ALSO BE IN PART FIELD FOR GRANT TO VULKAN SHOPOV (REF A PARA 4A AND BELOW).

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B. AMERICAN LITERATURE (REF A PARA 3C). THIS COULD BE

SUBSUMED UNDER AMERICAN STUDIES. ON INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM, WE INFORMED APPROPRIATE BULGARIANS THIS SPRING THAT CANDIDATE SHOULD BE NOMINATED ASAP; THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED.

C. TELEVISION DESIGN AND DIRECTION (REF A PARA 3H). THIS WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE, PENDING IMPROVEMENT IN BULGARIAN TV COVERAGE OF U.S.

D. TOURISM PROMOTION AND PROGRAMS (REF A PARA 3I), FOR REASONS GIVEN REF B PARA 4.

3. IN ADDITION P&C OFFICER INFORMED NIKOLOV THAT, AS WITH DIRECT INVITATION TO LAST YEAR EVGENIYA KAMOVA OF COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE, EMBASSY INTENDS TO INVITE VULKAN SHOPOV OF BCP CC AND KIRIL STEFANOV OF "SOFIA-CONCERT" (REF A PARA 4B) TO VISIT U.S. UNDER IVP GRANTS. NIKOLOV HAD NO REACTION, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL ALERT SHOPOV AND STEFANOV. WE WILL CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY AT EARLIES OPPORTUNITY.

4. ALTHOUGH WE OF COURSE WILL WANT SHOPOV'S PROGRAM TO INCLUDE OTHER SUBJECTS, HIS EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURE MAY DICTATE THAT HE TRAVEL DURING SUMMER 1977.

5. STEFANOV IS TO ATTEND DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM ON BULGARIAN FOLKLORE OCT 27-31. WE WILL OFFER HIM PARTIAL GRANT, EXCLUDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, FOR UP TO 30 DAYS' PROGRAMMING. WE HOPE THIS WILL OVERCOME DEPT'S RESERVATIONS ON THIS GRANT (REF B PARA 5).

6. FYI: BLAGOVEST SENDOV (REF A PARA 4C) HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED AS RECTOR OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY. PETUR BASHIKAROV (REF A PARA 4D) HAS BECOME DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE. WE WILL DETERMINE ADVISABILITY OF OFFERING GRANTS TO THEM LATER IN FISCAL YEAR, IN LIGHT OF BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS AND OVER-ALL U.S.-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.  
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